



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: Monday, February 10, 2014
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Chair Woodbury, Vice Chair Berthiaume, Clerk Stevens, Members Fritze and Pepe and Administrator Gaudette

At 6:00 p.m. Chairman Woodbury called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of January 22, 2014 (Pepe/Fritze) passed 5/0.

Citizen Input

None

Communications

Administrator Gaudette announced that the Town received the Stormwater Community Innovation Challenge (CIC) grant for the third consecutive year.

New Business

Action Item: Vote to authorize additional emergency Snow & Ice Expenditures in Accordance with MGL c. 44, §31D

The original budget for Snow & Ice was \$50,000 for labor and \$125,000 for expenses. The request at this time is for \$60,000, however with another storm is being predicted this week, Highway Foreman Eben Butler asked the Board to authorize an additional \$75,000. He noted there is a shortage of salt at this time making it more difficult to maintain the roads.

A motion to authorize deficit spending for Snow & Ice up to \$75,000 (Berthiaume/Pepe) passed 5/0.

Action Item: Letter of Support for APR Program for Small Farm

Mr. Gaudette noted that the Common Ground Land Trust is seeking letters of support to submit to the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources to help strengthen their grant application for Small Farm. In order to qualify for these grants, the Town took the necessary steps to implement a "Right to Farm" bylaw, appointed an Agricultural Commission, and put tracking procedures in place to prevent the issuance of permits on protected farmland.

A motion to offer a letter of support to the APR Program for Small Farm (Berthiaume/Fritze) passed 5/0.

Action Item: Vote to Place Vacant Seat for SEBRSC & Constable on Annual Town Election Ballot

The Town Clerk requests vacant seats for the SEBRSC and Constable be placed on the Annual Town Election Ballot.

A motion to place Vacant Seats for SEBRSC & Constable on the May 1st Annual Town Election Ballot (Berthiaume/Fritze) passed 5/0.

Action Item: Vote Non-Exercise of Rights of Purchase of Chapter 61A Land (Lot 2 Wilson Street, Carl Wilson Owner)

Mr. Gaudette reported that the Town has the First Right of Refusal for any property being removed from Chapter 61A. There is a proposal to separate two lots from property owned by Carl Wilson on 115 Wilson Street. The Board can vote to not exercise that right tonight, or may bring before Town Meeting to determine if there is interest in purchasing the property.

A motion not to purchase property known as Lot 1 on Wilson Street, owned by Carl Wilson (Berthiaume/Pepe) passed 4/0. Selectman Fritze recused himself.

Old Business

Town Administrator Report

Discussion: Initial FY2015 Budget Presentation

The Board discussed the FY15 budget situation. Administrator Gaudette noted the following:

- From a revenue standpoint there is a \$362,200 increase as a result of the 2 ½ % tax levy and estimated new growth.
- Local aid has been level funded in the State budget, resulting in a loss of \$8,000 to Spencer. State Representatives are hoping to change this and increase that amount.
- Local estimated receipts are level funded in terms of revenue receipts.
- \$400,000 in free cash was used in FY14. This budget does not use free cash.
- Overlay surplus increased and will be used to support expenses related to Tax Title and the Senior Work program.
- Additional revenue is estimated at \$379,224, and expenses estimated at \$809,841 resulting in budget deficit.

Action Item: Open May 1, 2014 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Gaudette announced that any items for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant may be submitted anytime between now through April 7th.

A motion to open the May 1, 2014 Annual Town Meeting Warrant (Berthiaume/Fritze) passed 5/0.

Board Liaison Reports

Mr. Pepe said the Finance Committee will hold a budget review meeting.

Citizen input

None

Board Member and Staff Comments

Selectman Berthiaume offered thoughts and prayers to Dan Martin, who was injured in a snowmobile accident. A fund has been set up to help with medical expenses.

Selectman Pepe noted that the Finance Committee is interested in establishing a local meals tax to raise additional funds.

Request for Executive Session under Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A, § 21 (a), ¶ 2, for the purposes of discussing strategy in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel and ¶ 3, for the purposes of discussing collective bargaining.

At 7:14 pm a motion to meet in Executive Session (Berthiaume/Fritze) in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, § 21 (a), ¶ 2, for the purposes of discussing strategy in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel and ¶ 3, for the purposes of discussing collective bargaining and not to reconvene except to adjourn passed with a roll call vote: Woodbury-yes, Berthiaume-yes, Fritze-yes, Stevens-yes, Pepe-yes.

A motion to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. (Pepe/Fritze) passed with a roll call vote: Berthiaume-yes, Woodbury-yes, Fritze-yes, Stevens-yes, Pepe-yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials:

APR Letter of Support for Small Farm
FY15 Draft Budget
Non-exercise of Right of Purchase of Chapter 61A Land